

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Complete the
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or
by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions,
architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional
entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name "Seated Lincoln"

other names/site number "Abraham Lincoln"

2. Location

street & number Essex County Courthouse Plaza, Springfield & Market ☒ not for publication

city or town Newark ☐ vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 zip code 07102

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National
Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall Entered in the
National Register

3/30/95

"Seated Lincoln"
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☒ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Sculpture in Newark, N.J.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: monument/sculpture

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other bronze

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

"Seated Lincoln"
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gutzon Borglum

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Newark Public Library

"Seated Lincoln"
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Elizabeth, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	8	5	6	9	4	2	0	4	5	0	9	6	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing											
2															

3															
Zone	Easting			Northing											
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ulana D. Zakalak/ Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Zakalak Associates date April 13, 1994

street & number 57 Cayuga Avenue telephone (908) 571-3176

city or town Oceanport state NJ zip code 07757

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Newark

street & number 920 Broad Street telephone _____

city or town Newark state NJ zip code 07102

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

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FEB 28 1995

Section number 7 Page 1"Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Description

"Seated Lincoln" is a heroic, bronze sculpture of Abraham Lincoln, created by John de la Mothe Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941), and located on the plaza of the Essex County Court House, City of Newark. Dedicated on May 30, 1911, the sculpture was commissioned according to the bequest of Newark businessman, Amos Hoagland Van Horn, who bequeathed \$25,000 for that purpose.

"Seated Lincoln," situated at the foot of the monumental Courthouse, was considered an astonishing departure in statuary for public figures, most of whom were depicted in standing postures. In contrast, the Newark Lincoln was portrayed sitting at one end of a garden bench, a solemn-appearing figure transfixed in reverie, his high-hat beside him, the empty end of the bench seeming to beckon passerby to sit. When Teddy Roosevelt unveiled the statue, he exclaimed, "Why this doesn't look like a monument at all!" The sculptor accepted that as the greatest compliment ever bestowed on his work (Bullard 1952: 214).

The statue of Abraham Lincoln is placed in front of the courthouse, not on a pedestal, but on a low platform on the margin of the sidewalk, at the foot of the steps leading to the entrance of the monumental building. The bearded Lincoln sits to one side of the plain, unbacked bench. His feet are solidly planted on the platform while his knees jut forward a long way into space. The right hand rests on the bench; the left crosses the body and droops from the right leg just back of the knee. The body is tilted forward and leans a little to the right. Beside him rests his old fashioned stove pipe hat. Lincoln appears lost in thought.

Borglum said his inspiration for the statue came from having read that often during the Civil War, when given news from the battlefields, Lincoln would go to a bench in the White House garden to sit in lone silence collecting his thoughts, particularly when the news was bad. "I am now in the Garden of Gethsemane," wrote Lincoln in one of the darkest hours of the

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"Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Civil War, and it is this moment that the artist has captured.

The entire sculpture is set on a five step marble podium, and flanked by low marble parapet walls on all sides except for the front (east). A low, marble, parapet wall behind the statue bears the inscription: "Lincoln Post Memorial Presented to his Comrades of Lincoln Post Number 11, Dept. N.J.G.A.R. By Bequest of Amos H. Van Horn, May 30, 1911." The wall is further inscribed with the names of the Committee: Hon. James E. Howell, John C. Dana, Joseph G. Spurr; and with the names of the Executors: John Matenis, Ralph E. Lum, George W. Wire.

The statue was cast in one piece by the Gorham Manufacturing Company of New York at its foundry in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1980, "Seated Lincoln" was restored by the Cavalier Renaissance Foundry of Bridgeport Connecticut. The restoration was funded by the Rushmore-Borglum Story of South Dakota (Star Ledger 2/12/88).

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"Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Statement of Significance

"Seated Lincoln" is significant under National Register Criteria C, because it is the work of Gutzon Borglum, a recognized master, and it possesses high artistic values.

"Seated Lincoln" was given to the City of Newark by the bequest of Newark businessman, Amos Hoagland Van Horn. Van Horn died on December 26, 1908, leaving \$25,000 for a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, to be erected in the city, and to be dedicated in memory of Lincoln Post, Grand Army of the Republic. The site was selected in accordance with his will, and also in accordance with a wish he expressed to his intimate friends. All else was left to the discretion of his executors, Ralph Lum, John Martenis and George Wire. The executors chose a Monument Committee composed of members of high standing in the community, qualified by their knowledge of artistic standards. These included James Howell, John Cotton Dana and Joseph G. Spurr. The committee asked Gutzon Borglum to submit a model for the Lincoln, which they immediately approved. The monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1911, by former president Theodore Roosevelt, and presented to the Lincoln Post. They, in turn, presented the Lincoln memorial, to the City of Newark (Van Horn Trust 1912: 1-2).

Amos H. Van Horn

Amos Hoagland Van Horn was born in Warren County, New Jersey, on November 26, 1840. Educated in the Danville public schools, Van Horn received his earliest training in his father's general store. In 1860, Van Horn borrowed five dollars from his brother Edward, and opened a small furniture repair shop in Newark. When the Civil War broke out, Van Horn volunteered in Company A of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment, selling his business for \$25. During the war, his brigade took part in many battles and was commended for gallantry. He was mustered out of service on June 27, 1863.

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Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Upon returning to Newark, Van Horn started his furniture business again and gradually prospered until his business required the erection of several buildings on Market Street. By the end of the century, Van Horn had expanded into the storage and warehouse business, as well as carpet cleaning. In July, 1906, his concern was succeeded by Cowperthwait and Van Horn, although Van Horn remained on the board of directors until his death. During his many years as a Newark leading businessman, Van Horn contributed generously to many civic and charitable causes and was an active member of Lincoln Post No. 11, Grand Army of the Republic (Van Horn Trust 1912: 5-11).

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"Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bailey, Bruce. "Three Score and Seventeen; Restored 'Seated Lincoln' Statue Re-dedicated in Newark." Star Ledger, 2 December 1988.

Bullard, F. Lauriston, Lincoln in Marble and Bronze. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1952.

Shaff, Howard and Audrey Karl Shaff. Six Wars at a Time. Sioux Falls, South Dakota: The Center for Western Studies, 1985.

"Spectators Massed at Courthouse, with Roosevelt and Chancellor Pitney Speaking. The Statue Unveiled." Newark Evening News, 30 May, 1911.

Van Horn Trust. The Newark Lincoln, a memorial. Newark: Newark Free Public Library for the Trustees of the Van Horn Trust, 1912.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

"Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated monument consists of the sculpture and plaza setting which it occupies. The plaza occupies the eastern end of Block 81, and is separated from the Courthouse lot by an arced boundary line. The plaza lot has the legal address 2-18 Springfield Avenue.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the site of the "Seated Lincoln."

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Section number PHOTO Page 7 "Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ

"Seated Lincoln"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Photograph List

The following information is the same for all of the
photographs listed:

- 1) Name of property: "Seated Lincoln"
- 2) City, county and state: Newark, Essex County, New Jersey
- 3) Photographer: Gerry Weinstein
- 4) Date of Photographs: March 23, 1994
- 5) Location of Negatives: Photo Recording Associates
40 W. 77th Street 17B
New York, New York 10024

6) & 7) Description of views indicating direction of camera:

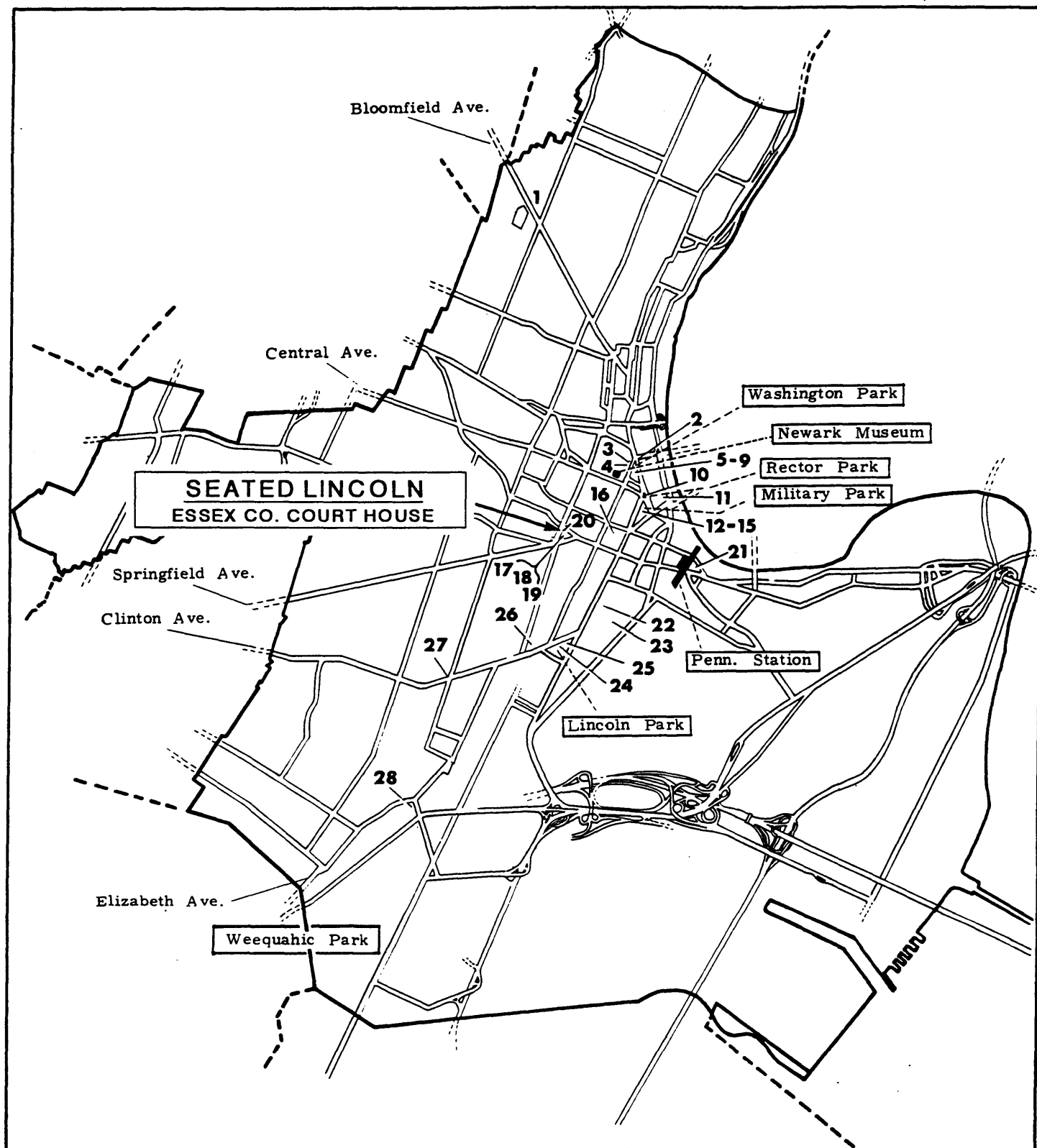
Photo 1 of 5: "Seated Lincoln" with Essex County Courthouse in
the background. View looking west.

Photo 2 of 5: "Seated Lincoln." View looking west.

Photo 3 of 5: "Seated Lincoln" overlooking Market Street.
View looking east.

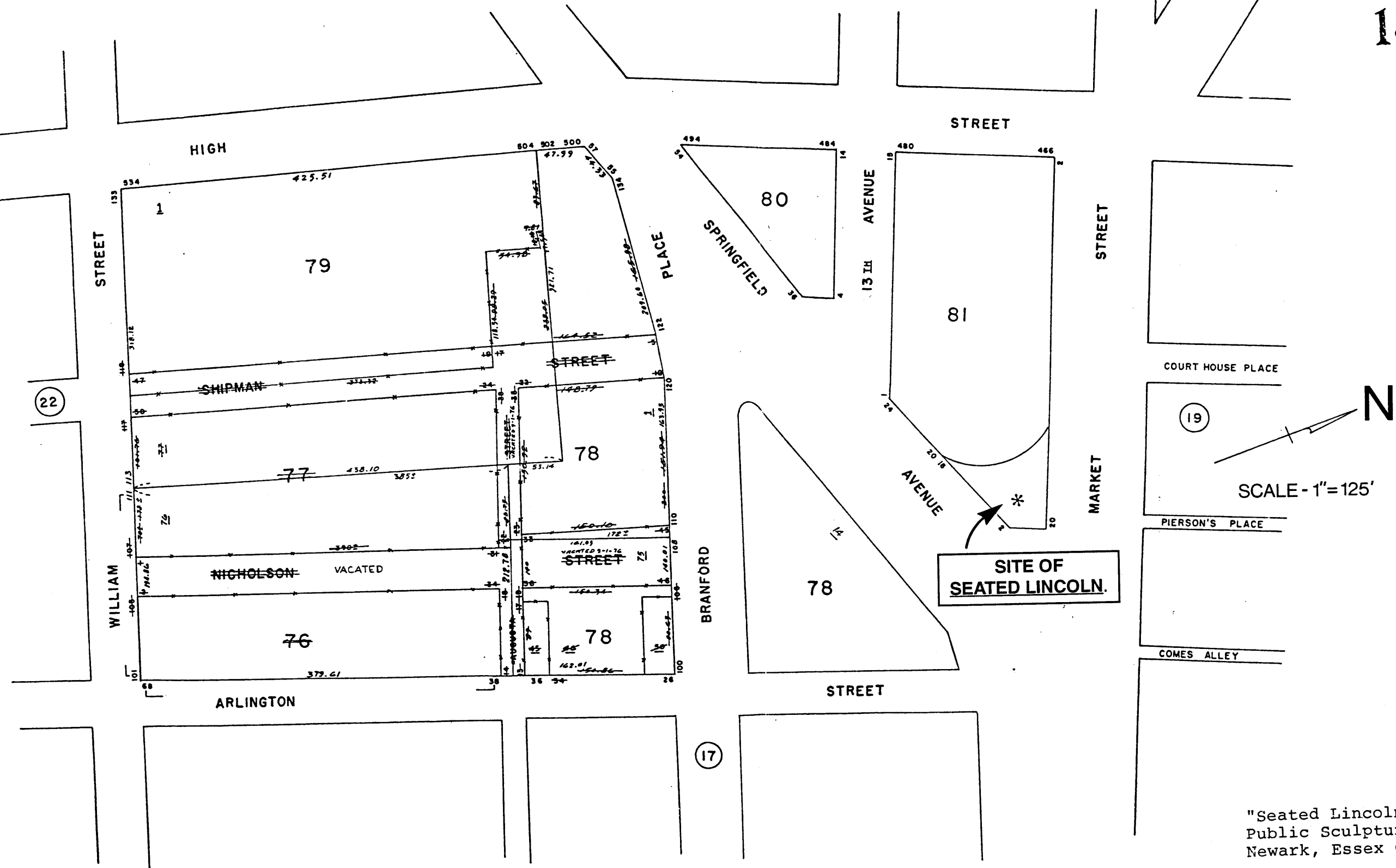
Photo 4 of 5: "Seated Lincoln." View looking north.

Photo 5 of 5: "Seated Lincoln." View looking south.



SEATED LINCOLN
ESSEX CO. COURT HOUSE

Public Sculpture in Newark MPS, Newark, Essex County, NJ



"Seated Lincoln"
Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Newark, Essex County, NJ



Seated Lincoln
Newark, Essex County, NJ
Photo 1 of 5



Seated Lincoln
Newark, Essex County, NJ
Photo 2 of 5



Seated Lincoln
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 3 of 5



Seated Lincoln
Newark, Essex Cty. NJ
Photo 4 of 5



Seated Lincoln
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
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